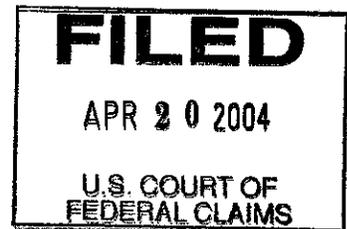


**ORIGINAL**

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**

**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

(Filed: April 20, 2004)



\*\*\*\*\*  
**IN RE: CLAIMS FOR VACCINE INJURIES**  
**RESULTING IN AUTISM SPECTRUM**  
**DISORDER OR A SIMILAR**  
**NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER**  
  
 VARIOUS PETITIONERS,  
  
 v.  
  
 SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
 HUMAN SERVICES,  
  
 Respondent.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**AUTISM MASTER FILE**

**SCHEDULING ORDER**

An unrecorded telephonic status conference was held on April 16, 2004. Participating were Thomas Powers and Ghada Anis for the petitioners, Vincent Matanoski and Mark Raby for the respondent, and Dino Sangiamo for Merck. Pursuant to discussion at that conference, I hereby note as follows.

**1. Merck discovery**

The parties have agreed to a change in the schedule for the briefing concerning the petitioners' pending "motion to compel" discovery from Merck. Merck's response will be due on April 23, 2004, and the petitioners' reply will be due on May 7, 2004. The date for oral argument remains May 26, 2004.

**2. Next Omnibus Autism Proceeding status conference**

The next status conference for the Omnibus Autism Proceeding, involving only the respondent and petitioners' attorneys, has been scheduled for May 6, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern (11:00 a.m. Pacific) time.



---

George L. Hastings, Jr.  
Special Master